



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
**Two Gateway Center**  
**Newark, NJ 07102**  
**[www.bpu.state.nj.us](http://www.bpu.state.nj.us)**

Customer Assistance

Nabeegah Muhammad,  
Petitioner,  
v.  
Public Service Electric and  
Gas Company, Inc.,  
Respondent

ORDER ADOPTING  
INITIAL DECISION

BPU Docket No. EC02020086U  
OAL Docket No. PUC 3785-02N

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On March 22, 2002, Nabeegah Muhammad (Petitioner) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board), alleging that Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Inc. (Respondent) mistakenly billed her for certain charges that should have been billed to a different customer of the same name.

On April 22, 2002, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for determination and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. The matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Elinor R. Reiner.

During the pendency of this matter at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and executed a Stipulation of Settlement. The settlement was submitted to the ALJ for review. On November 14, 2002, ALJ Reiner filed her Initial Decision with the Board, recommending that the settlement be approved. The ALJ found the settlement to be voluntary, consistent with the law and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy. The ALJ therefore concluded that the settlement met the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

The settlement provides, inter alia, that Respondent will correct its electric billing records to reflect that Petitioner was not the customer of record at the location for which electricity usage was charged, will notify the credit bureau that Petitioner is not responsible for the charges, and will credit Petitioner's account in the amount of \$285.85.

After review, the Board FINDS that the terms of the settlement are fair and reasonable. Therefore, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision and Stipulation of Settlement in their entirety, incorporating the terms thereof into this final decision as if fully set forth at length herein.

DATED: 12/19/02

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

SIGNED

JEANNE M. FOX  
PRESIDENT

SIGNED

FREDERICK F. BUTLER  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

CAROL J. MURPHY  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

CONNIE O. HUGHES  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

JACK ALTER  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: SIGNED

KRISTI IZZO  
SECRETARY

Nabeelah Muhammad v. Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Inc.

BPU Dkt. No. EC02020086U  
OAL Dkt. No. 3785-02N

**SERVICE LIST**

Nabeelah Muhammad  
250 Prospect Street, A407  
East Orange, NJ 07017

Pauline Foley, Esq.  
Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Inc.  
80 Park Plaza T5G  
Newark, NJ 07102

Kent Papsun, Director  
Division of Customer Assistance  
Board of Public Utilities  
Two Gateway Center  
Newark, NJ 07102

Jeff Slutzky, Esq.  
Division of Law  
124 Halsey St. - 5th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102